

Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors
Council President Scott Peters, First District
For the Corridor News, June 2007

When asked why they moved to the communities of the First Council District, many residents will credit the local schools. It's true; the Poway Unified School District is one of the best in the country. Our schools are regularly recognized with state and national awards for academics and athletics, and are consistently ranked among the best in the region and the country.

The students graduating from our local high schools, including Mt. Carmel and Westview, in my Council district, are among the best and brightest in the country, many of whom will attend some of the country's most elite colleges. They are headed for distinguished careers in a wide array of professions including, I hope, public service.

To the parents of these graduates, I offer my thanks and congratulations. You have made it through some of the most trying times of parenthood, and should take pride in your children's accomplishments. You helped mold these young citizens and imparted upon them the lessons they will call on throughout life.

To the teachers and administrators at Mt. Carmel and Westview High Schools, I offer my thanks and admiration. You create an atmosphere of trust, respect and love of learning, which allows these bright young people to excel. You foster critical thinking, responsible citizenship and a sense of curiosity, vital characteristics of tomorrow's leaders. Your graduates go out into the world ready to meet its many challenges.

To our 2007 graduates, I offer my respect and encouragement. You are headed for one of the most exciting times of your life. The rush of college, the thrill of your first adult job, and the promise of the future are experiences you will never forget.

For those of you thinking about a career in government or public service, I extend a special offer to you. Each summer, my office hosts high school and college interns interested in local government. We give preference to residents and graduates from the First District, including the communities of Peñasquitos, Black Mountain Ranch, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Hills and Carmel Valley. While our summer 2007 internships are full, you may contact my office by phone at (619) 236-6611 for more information.

Finally, I offer these words of caution to our graduating seniors. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to celebrate safely and make smart decisions. The recent tragedy involving graduating seniors from Riverside County is a chilling reminder that alcohol, excessive speed and Senior festivities do not mix. My thanks go out to the many volunteers who make safe, hosted and alcohol-free activities like Grad Nite possible.

Congratulations, Class of 2007. Make us proud!